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OSTRICH FARMING, SOUTH AFRICA.

A few decades back, ostrich plumes like ermine and sable were restricted to the very rich. Today, owing to the large number of ostrich farms established in many parts of the world, they are within the reach of the purses of a large percentage of the world's feminine population.

Our picture gives a comprehensive and detailed view of such a farm in the natural home of the ostrich - South Africa. As in all other Edison films, great care has been taken to give a complete and accurate presentation of the process of ostrich farming.

The hen ostrich makes her nest by hollowing out a depression in the sand. Under natural conditions, the eggs are hatched out partly by the ostrich and partly by the heat of the sun. On the farm, however, the eggs are removed and placed in an incubator calculated to startle anyone accustomed to the general notion of what an incubator looks like.

The life of the young ostrich is followed from the time it emerges from the egg to maturity at the age of eight months. At first no larger than a chicken, it grows with remarkable rapidity until its head towers above the tallest of men.

When the feathers have reached a sufficiently luxurious growth, the ostrich is roped, 'hooded', and led into a stall where it patiently bides the process of being divested of its plumage. It is painless - a good reason why ostrich plumes should be preferred to cigarettes, the procuring of which invariably means the death of the bird possessing them.

The drying, curling and packing of the feathers is amply illustrated and as a conclusion, some of the magnificent articles which may be made from the plumes, are held up to view.

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